



NEW JERSEY FIELD OFFICE

FIELD NOTES

JANUARY 2015



New Jersey Piping Plover Summit

By Eric Schrading

In late December the New Jersey Field Office participated in an all day Summit regarding piping plover management and research. The Summit was attended by NJDFW, Rutgers, USCG, NWR staff, NPS and others. The purpose of the Summit was to identify high priority action items for 2015, share population data, management initiatives and recent research. The Summit resulted in shared action items that will help to improve piping plover habitat and nesting success in 2015 as well as collection of important data. (Congressional Districts 2, 3 & 4)



Photo Credit: USFWS



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Rufa Red Knot Protected Under ESA

By Wendy Walsh

On January 12, 2014, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service listed the rufa red knot as a threatened species, extending the protections of the Endangered Species Act to this long-distance migrant shorebird. Since the 1980s, the knot's population has fallen by about 75 percent in some key areas. Threats to the red knot include sea level rise, coastal development, shoreline stabilization, dredging, reduced food availability at stopover areas, disturbance (*e.g.*, by vehicles, people, dogs, aircraft, and boats), and climate change.

The rufa red knot breeds in the tundra of the central Canadian Arctic. Some of these robin-sized shorebirds fly more than 9,300 miles from south to north every spring and reverse the trip every autumn, making the rufa red knot one of the longest-distance migrants in the animal kingdom. Migrating red knots can complete non-stop flights of 1,500 miles or more, converging on vital stopover areas to rest and refuel along the way. One bird, banded by biologists in 1995, has been nicknamed Moonbird because he has flown a distance equivalent to a trip to the moon and at least halfway back over at least 21 years of migrations. (Congressional Districts 2 & 6)



Photo Credit: Greg Breese, USFWS